Please cancel Claims 17 and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. and 2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An information processing device comprising:

a communication unit ~~adapted to~~ that communicates with a server via a network;

a portable-information-storage-medium connection unit to which a portable information storage medium is connectable, wherein the portable information storage medium stores information identifying software to be acquired via the network from the server, and has a low capacity for storing the information without storing the software;

a detecting unit ~~adapted to~~ that detects whether the portable information storage medium is connected ~~by~~ with the portable-information-storage-medium connection unit;

a reading unit ~~adapted to~~ that reads, from the portable information storage medium, the information identifying the software to be acquired when the connection of the portable information storage medium with the portable-information-storage-medium connection unit is detected by the detecting unit;

a sending unit ~~adapted to~~ that sends the information identifying the software to be acquired read by the reading unit to the server through the communication unit;

an information transfer unit ~~adapted to automatically~~ that downloads, from the server, the software identified by the information identifying the software to be

acquired sent by the sending unit ~~from the server~~ into an internal storage medium of the information processing device;

a software storage unit ~~adapted to~~ that stores the downloaded software into a software storage area of the internal storage medium~~, wherein the software is automatically downloaded into the internal storage medium~~;

a software management unit ~~adapted to~~ that manages the software stored in the software storage area of the internal storage medium;

a menu display unit that displays a menu screen to instruct restarting of the software when the software stored in the software storage area closes after starting up;

an unloading detecting unit ~~adapted to~~ that detects an unload of the portable information storage medium from the portable-information-storage-medium connection unit; ~~and~~

a deleting unit ~~adapted to~~ that deletes the menu screen displayed by the menu display unit in a condition where the software is stored into the software storage area when the unload is detected by the unloading detecting unit;

an estimation unit that estimates whether the software identified by the information identifying the software to be acquired read by the reading unit is already stored into the software storage area of the internal storage medium; and

a sending unit that sends version information of the software stored in the internal storage medium to the server when it is estimated by the estimation unit that the software is already stored into the software storage area,

wherein the software management unit starts the software stored into the software storage area when a version of the software in the server and the version of the software stored into the software storage area are identical, and

the software management unit downloads a new software version from the server via the information transfer unit and starts the software based on the version information transferred by the information transfer unit.

4. (Previously Presented) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein, from the information identifying the software read from the portable information storage medium, software identification information and location information of a location on the network of the software are extracted and managed by said software management unit.

5. (Previously Presented) An information processing device according to Claim 4, wherein, based on an instruction from said software management unit, said information transfer unit accesses the server by using the location information, and downloads, into the internal storage medium, software represented by the software identification information.

6. (Previously Presented) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein said software management unit performs a software activating process for executing the software downloaded into the internal storage medium.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is disconnected from said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit while the software downloaded into the internal storage medium is being executed, said software management unit

performs a medium-unloading warning process, for warning a user by interrupting execution of the software downloaded into the internal storage medium, and a user-input accepting process, for activating a user-input accepting state after the medium-unloading warning process is performed.

9. (Original) An information processing device according to Claim 8, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is connected again after the medium-unloading warning process is performed, said software management unit performs an execution restarting process for restarting execution of the software.

10. (Original) An information processing device according to Claim 8, wherein, when the user selects termination of execution of the software in the user-input accepting state, said software management unit terminates execution of the software, and subsequently performs a software deletion process.

11. (Previously Presented) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is disconnected from said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit while the software downloaded into the internal storage medium is being executed, said software management unit continues execution of the software, and, when execution of the software is subsequently terminated by a user, said software management unit performs a process for deleting the software from the internal storage medium.

12. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein:

the internal storage medium includes a nonvolatile memory, a volatile memory, and internal storage;

said software management unit stores a device identification in the nonvolatile memory and stores user information, which is written by a user, in the internal storage; and

after the portable information storage medium is connected to said portable-information-storage-medium connection unit, said software management unit examines whether or not the device identification and the user information are written in the portable information storage medium, and, when the device identification and the user information are not written, said software management unit writes the device identification and the user information into the portable information storage medium.

13. (Previously Presented) An information processing device according to Claim 12, wherein, after the portable information storage medium is connected to said portable-information-storage-medium connection unit, said software management unit examines whether or not the device identification and the user information are written in the portable information storage medium, and, when the device identification and the user information are written, and said software management unit finds, by comparing a device identification stored internally in said information processing device and the device identification written in the portable information storage medium, identity between both device identifications, said software management unit initiates accessing of the server .

14. (Previously Presented) An information processing device according to Claim 4, wherein, when software represented by the software identification information is not downloaded into the internal storage medium, said software management unit executes a process for downloading the software into the internal storage medium.

15. (Previously Presented) An information processing device according to Claim 14, wherein, after the software is downloaded into the internal storage medium, said software management unit performs a process for executing the downloaded software.

16. (Previously Presented) An information processing device according to Claim 4, wherein:

when software represented by the software identification information is downloaded into the internal storage medium, said software management unit performs a process for comparing a version of software stored in the server and a version of software stored in the internal storage medium;

said software management unit performs a process for initiating execution of the software in the internal storage medium when both versions match each other; and

when the version of the software stored in the server is newer than the version in the internal storage medium, said software management unit performs a process that, after downloading the software from the server into the internal storage medium, initiates execution of the downloaded software.

17. and 18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) An information processing device according to Claim 8, wherein, when the user selects termination of execution of the software in the user-input accepting state, said software management unit performs a process for terminating execution of the software, a process for deleting an option for reactivating the software from a menu screen, and a process for preventing reactivation of the software in response to input from a user.

20. (Original) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is unloaded while the software is being executed, said software management unit continues execution of the software, and, when a user terminates execution of the software, said software management unit performs a process for deleting an option for reactivating the software from a menu screen, so that reactivation of the software cannot be performed in response to input from a user.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for an information processing apparatus, comprising:

a communication step of communicating with a server via a network;

a portable-information-storage-medium connection step of connecting a portable information storage medium to a portable-information-storage-medium connection unit, wherein the portable information storage medium stores information identifying software to be acquired via the network from the server, and has a low capacity for storing the information without storing the software;

a detecting step of detecting whether the portable information storage medium is connected ~~by~~ with the portable-information-storage-medium connection unit;

a reading step of reading, from the portable information storage medium, the information identifying the software to be acquired when the connection of the portable information storage medium with the portable-information-storage-medium connection unit is detected by the detecting step;

a sending step of sending the information identifying the software to be acquired read by the reading step to the server through the communication step;

an information transfer step of ~~automatically~~ downloading, from the server, the software identified by the information identifying the software to be acquired sent by the sending step ~~from the server~~ into an internal storage medium of the information processing apparatus;

a software storage step of storing the downloaded software into a software storage area of the internal storage medium~~, wherein the software is automatically downloaded into the internal storage medium~~;

a software management step of managing the software stored in the software storage area of the internal storage medium;

a menu display step of displaying a menu screen to instruct restarting of the software when the software stored in the software storage area closes after starting up;

an unloading detecting step of detecting an unload of the portable information storage medium from the portable-information-storage-medium connection unit; ~~and~~

a deleting step of deleting the menu screen displayed by the menu display unit in a condition where the software is stored in the software storage ~~step~~ area when the unload is detected by the unloading detecting step;

an estimation step of estimating whether the software identified by the information identifying the software to be acquired read by the reading step is already stored in the software storage area of the internal storage medium; and

a sending step of sending version information of the software stored in the software storage area of the internal storage medium to the server when it is estimated by the estimation step that the software is already stored in the software storage area,

wherein the software management step starts the software stored in the software storage area when a version of the software in the server and the version of the software stored in the software storage area are identical, and

the software management step downloads a new software version from the server via the information transfer step and starts the software based on the version information transferred by the information transfer step.

23. (Original) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for controlling a computer to execute an information processing method as set forth in Claim 22.

24. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 22, wherein, from the information read from the portable information storage medium, software identification information and location information of a location on the network of the software are extracted and managed in said software management step.

25. (Currently Amended) An information processing method according to Claim 24, wherein, based on an instruction from said software management step, said information transfer ~~unit~~ step accesses the server by using the location information, and downloads, into the internal storage medium, software represented by the software identification information.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 22, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is disconnected while the software downloaded into the internal storage medium is being executed, said software management step performs an interruption process for interrupting execution of the software downloaded into the internal storage medium.

28. and 29. (Canceled)